GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1574
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006
CONSTITUTION OF NATIONAL FARMERS WELFARE FUND .
Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government is considering to constitute a `National Farmers Welfare Fund` to extend the relief and rehabilitation measures to the farmers;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): No such proposal is under consideration to constitute a separate National Farmers Welfare Fund. However, a comprehensive credit policy was announced by the Government on 18th June, 2004 containing measures for doubling of agricultural credit flow in next three years and provision of debt relief to the farmers affected by natural calamities. Actions are underway for revamping the cooperative credit structure as well as introducing modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana). The Government has also decided to launch a special rehabilitation package to mitigate the distress of farmers in 31 identified districts in the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Kerala, registering high incidence of farmers` suicide. The package in respect of the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra has already been announced which, inter alia, contains provision for ex-gratia assistance from the Prime Ministers National Relief Fund debt relief to farmers, enhanced credit flow, interest waiver, assured irrigation facilities, seed replacement and cropping intensity, watershed development, horticulture development, micro irrigation, extension services, and subsidiary income opportunities. On this pattern the Government is finalizing the package for the other three States.